

Message Text

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S/S - O: M. TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034146

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: BONN 1689; LONDON 1395; LUXEMBOURG 0140

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1. FOR BONN. FRG EMBOFF APPROACHED DEPARTMENT AS ANTICIPA-

TED REF A. DEPARTMENT TOLD HIM THAT WE SEE BENEFIT IN EC-9 PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO ARMS SHIPMENTS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES IN LEBANON. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH STATEMENT IF MADE WOULD NOT INHIBIT ARMS SHIPMENTS TO GOL. USG IS CONTINUING ROUTINE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANESE ARMY, WHICH HAS POTENTIALLY MAJOR ROLE IN SUPPORTING CEASE-FIRE AND REESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY IN LEBANON. FRG EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT FRG POLICY GOES FARTHER, RESTRICTING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO GOVERNMENTS IN AREAS OF TENSION, INCLUDING LEBANON AND MUCH OF MIDDLE EAST. WE SUGGESTED THAT IF THERE IS AN EC-9 STATEMENT, PERHAPS IT COULD BE LIMITED TO EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO ARMS SHIPMENTS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES IN LEBANON, WITH FRG SETTING FORTH ITS MORE EXTENSIVE POLICY IN SEPARATE STATEMENT OR EXPLANATION OF VOTE. FRG EMBOFF SAID THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN THINKING ALONG THOSE LINES.

2. FOR LONDON. YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN TALKING WITH FCO, ADDING THAT WE MUCH APPRECIATE EFFORTS BRITISH HAVE BEEN MAKING TO BE HELPFUL WITHIN EC-9. STATE 20511 DISCOURAGING STATEMENT RE LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL WAS DRAFTED IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF ENTRY OF PLA TROOPS INTO LEBANON, AT TIME WHEN STATUS OF THEN-NEW CEASE-FIRE AND MEDIATION EFFORT UERE MUCH IN DOUBT. CEASE-FIRE HAS SINCE CONSOLIDATED SITUATION TO POINT WHERE AN EC-9 STATEMENT AGAINST ARMS SHIPMENTS WOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ONE-SIDED.

3. FOR LUXEMBOURG: YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN CONNECTION WITH CONSULTATIONS WITH EC PRESIDENCY PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 16-17 EC-NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING. INGERSOLL

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